

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 11369 192309Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /062 W

----- 051824

R 191738Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2754

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 11369

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAGR,EEC

SUBJECT: EC CROP ESTIMATES FOR 1976

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9534

1.SUMMARY: A REPORT JUST RELEASED BY THE EC STATISTICAL OFFICE ESTIMATES 1976 EC GRAIN PRODUCTION AT 91.4 MILLION METRIC TONS,SLIGHTLY ABOVE THEIR SEPTEMBER ESTIMATE.THE REPORT ALSO ESTIMATES 1976 POTATO PRODUCTION AT 27 MILLION TONS--DOWN ALMOST 20 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.ALTHOUGH THE SUGAR BEET HARVEST IS ESTIMATED DOWN ABOUT 15 PERCENT,RAV SUGAR PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE DOWN ONLY SLIGHTLY.END SUMMARY.

2.THE COMMISSION'SSTATISTICAL OFFICE HAS JUST RELEASED NEW ESTIMATES FOR 1976 CROP PRODUCTION. THEIR ESTIMATE OF GRAIN PRODUCTION (EXCLUDING RICE)IS NOW 91.4 MILLION TONS-- UP 0.05 MILLION TONS FROM THEIR SEPTEMBER ESTIMATE (REFTTEL), BUT SUBSTANTIALLY UNDER LAST YEAR'S CROP OF 97.2 MILLION TONS.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 11369 192309Z

THE NEW ESTIMATES ARE COMPARED WITH 1975 PRODUCTION AND

AVERAGE PRODUCTION IN THE PERIOD 1971-75 BELOW:

	1976	1975	AVERAGE 1971-75
WHEAT	39.6	38.1	41.3
SOFT	35.6	33.9	37.7
DURUM	3.8	4.3	3.6
RYE	2.9	2.9	3.5
BARLEY	30.1	32.3	33.3
OATS	7.7	9.4	10.2
CORN	10.9	14.1	14.5
TOTAL GRAINR			
(EXCLUDING RICE)	91.4	97.2	103.0.
RICE (HUSKED)	0.81	0.85	0.80

3. SINCE THE TOTAL AREA IN GRAINS, AT 62.3 MILLION HECTARES, IS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN 1975 THE DROP IN PRODUCTION IS DUE ENTIRELY TO LOWER YIELDS RESULTING FROM THE DROUGHT: THE AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE WAS ONLY 3.48 TONS PER HECTARE IN 1976 AS COMPARED WITH 3.68 TONS PER HECTARE IN 1975 AND AN AVERAGE YIELD OF 3.86 TONS PER HECTARE IN THE PERIOD 1971-75 THE AREA IN WHEAT INCREASED BY ALMOST 800,000 HECTARES TO 11.2 MILLION HECTARES. THE AREA IN OTHER GRAINS (EXCEPT RYE) DECLINED AS SHOWN BELOW:

	1976	1975
(MILLION HECTARES)		
BARLEY	8.9	9.0
OATS	2.2	2.3
CORN	2.4	3.0

4. THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE ESTIMATE OF THE CORN HARVEST IS STILL QUITE TENTATIVE, DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE EXTENT OF THE SWITCH FROM CORN FOR GRAIN TO CORN FOR SILAGE.

5. PRODUCTION OF GRAINS BY COUNTRY (1975 IN PARENTHESES): IS ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS: (MILLION TONS): GERMANY 19.1 (21.3) FRANCE 32.1 (35.7) ITALY 16.1 (16.2); NETHERLANDS 1.1 (1.1) BELGIUM LUXEMBOURG 1.87 (1.6) UK 13.9 (13.9) IRELAND 1.3 (1.2) DENMARK 5.9 (6.3).

6. THE AREAS SOWN TO GRAINS THIS AUTUMN IN GERMANY ARE ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS (AS COMPARED WITH 1975):
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PAGE 03 EC BRU 11369 192309Z

WINTER WHEAT -1 PERCENT
WINTER RYE PLUS 6 PERCENT
WINTER BARLEY PLUS 8 PERCENT
WINTER RAPE PLUS 19 PERCENT
THE STATISTICAL OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON SOWINGS IN OTHER MEMBER STATES.

7. THE 1976 POTATO HARVEST IS ESTIMATED AT 27 MILLION TONS

AS COMPARED WITH 33.5 MILLION TONS IN 1976 AND AN AVERAGE OF
40.1 MILLION TONS IN THE 1971-75 PERIOD. SINCE THE 1976
AREA IN POTATOES WAS VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, THE
DECLINE RESULTS ENTIRELY FROM A 19 PERCENT DROP IN YIELDS.
THE SHARPEST DROP IN PRODUCTION WAS REPORTED IN FRANCE WHERE
1976 PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 3 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH
7.2 MILLION TONS IN 1975. GERMAN PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT
9.8 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 10.9 MILLION TONS LAST YEAR.
8. THE 1976 SUGAR BEET HARVEST IS ESTIMATED AT 65-66 MILLION
TONS AS COMPARED WITH 76.7 MILLION TONS IN 1975 AND AN
AVERAGE OF 68.9
MILLION TONS IN THE PERIOD 1971-75. THE 1976 SUGAR BEET AREA AT
1.9 MILLION HECTARES WAS marginally ABOVE 1975. DESPITE THE
DECLINE IN SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION, THE
REPORT NOTES THAT F.O. LICHT ESTIMATES 1976/77
RAW SUGAR PRODUCTION AT 10 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 10.2
MILLION TONS IN 1975/76.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DATA, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU11369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760432-1013
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761131/aaaabajp.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 9534
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC CROP ESTIMATES FOR 1976
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006